

## CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

### BIOGRAPHY

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Earl Blumenauer has been an Oregon elected official for over 29 years. He was born, raised and educated in Portland, Oregon, and has been a life-long resident of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

Congressman Blumenauer began his political career while still in college, spearheading a successful campaign to lower Oregon's voting age to 18. He was 23 when he first ran for the Oregon State Legislature, winning every precinct in his district. In addition to chairing the Revenue and School Finance Committee, he played key roles in enacting Oregon's landmark land use and transportation planning legislation, both still national models today.

After completing three terms in the Legislature, Congressman Blumenauer was elected to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and in 1986 was elected Portland's Commissioner of Public Works. As a member of the City Council and County Commission for almost 20 years, he championed programs and policies that led to Portland's acclaim as one of the nation's most livable cities. Perhaps best-known for his efforts to provide Portlanders with a wider range of transportation choices - from light rail to bicycles to trolleys - Congressman Blumenauer also launched curbside recycling, worked to protect the Willamette River from combined sewer overflow, fought to confiscate cars of repeat drunk drivers, and led successful efforts to increase local funding of Portland's public schools.

First elected to the U.S. House in a special election in 1996, Congressman Blumenauer has carved out a unique role for himself as the Congress's proponent of Livable Communities. His work in Congress has focused on creating policies and partnerships that will make communities and the families that live in them safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

Throughout his time in Congress, he has served as an active member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on water, brownfields and surface transportation issues. One of the highlights of his committee work includes the passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty-first Century (TEA-21) in 1998 to provide record levels of federal investment for transit, highways, transportation safety and enhancement programs.

Congressman Blumenauer also serves on the International Relations Committee, which provides an opportunity to show leadership on international trade and human rights issues, particularly concerning East and Southeast Asia. Internationally, he has visited and met with elected officials in Vietnam, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Blumenauer has been described as the "Johnny Appleseed" of livability. Since his election to Congress, he has traveled to nearly 50 communities, working with local citizens and organizations on ways they can build more effective civic partnerships to improve land use, environment and transportation. He is equally committed to partnerships with his colleagues: he works with them through the Bike Caucus, which he founded, the Task Force on Livable Communities, which he founded and co-chairs, and other member organizations such as the House Sustainable Development Caucus.



*Congressman Blumenauer can be reached at (202) 225-4811 in Washington, D.C.,  
or at (503) 231-2300 in Portland, Oregon.*